



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND  
DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20231  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

X13

MAILED

MAY 16 2002

Office of the Director  
Group 3600

Del Christensen  
Shell Oil Company  
P. O. Box 2463  
Houston, TX 77252-2463

In re Application of  
Scott Lee Wellington, et.al.  
SERIAL NO:09/841,447  
FILED: April 24, 2001  
FOR: IN SITU THERMAL PROCESSING OF A  
HYDROCARBON CONTAINING FORMATION  
USING A NATURAL DISTRIBUTED COMBUSTOR

DECISION ON PETITION  
TO MAKE APPLICATION  
SPECIAL (AGE)

This is a decision on your petition submitted on January 22, 2002, to make the above-referenced application special on the basis of applicant's age.

The petition has been found to comply with all requirements of section 708.02, part III of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, specifically that evidence had been provided that applicant's age is such that he might not be available to assist in the prosecution of the application if it were to run its normal course, and will be GRANTED for that reason.

The examiner is directed (1) to make an interference search for possible interfering applications, (2) to promptly examine this application out of turn, and (3) if any interfering application is discovered, to examine such application simultaneously and state in the first official letter of such application that it is being taken out of turn because of a possible interference.

Petitioner is advised that this application will continue to be special, throughout its entire prosecution and pendency, including interference or appeal, if any, only if Petitioner makes a prompt bona fide effort, in response to each office action, to place the applicant in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to conduct an interview with the Examiner to accomplish this purpose.

The application is being forwarded to the examiner for accelerated examination consistent with the provisions of section 708.02 of the MPEP.

Steven N. Meyers  
Special Programs Examiner  
Technology Center 3600  
(703)- 308-3868  
Rjb: 05/16/02